

Personnel records of police officers and firefighters

SB 695 by Zaffirini (Oakley)

- DIGEST:** SB 695 would have required that the permanent personnel files of law enforcement or fire protection employees contain certain records, including commendations, honors, misconduct resulting in disciplinary action or pending and being investigated at the time an employee resigns, periodic evaluations and photographs. The bill would have set guidelines for the circumstances under which information about misconduct and disciplinary action could be included in a file and would have required that employees be given a chance to respond to negative employee records. The bill also would have set guidelines for the release of information in the files, including giving employees access to their records. The bill would not have applied to persons covered by the municipal civil service provisions in the Local Government code or officers or employees of cities with a population of less than 10,000.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "Senate Bill 695 would regulate the way in which state agencies and municipalities manage personnel records of firefighters and police officers. Agencies affected would have to bear the expense of creating separate personnel systems for the police and firefighters under their employment. In addition, cities and agencies would be burdened further by the notice requirements imposed under this bill."
- RESPONSE:** Neither Sen. Judith Zaffirini, the author of SB 695, nor Rep. Keith Oakley, the House sponsor, had a comment.
- NOTES:** SB 695 was analyzed in Part Two of the May 18 *Daily Floor Report*.